

## Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 OES-06

OMB-01 /091 W

----- 000172

R 261001Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2576

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USUN NEW YORK 1693

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24007

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJ: ALLEGED OPIUM TRAFFICKING IN LAOS

REF: A) VIENTIANE 2014, B) RANGOON 2921

1. I FULLY SHARE CHARGE CORCORAN'S SKEPTICISM WITH REGARD TO UNFDAC DIRECTOR ARNAUD'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAO OPIUM PICTURE. HIS FIGURES ARE OF COURSE, ABSURD.

2. IN THE COURSE OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, WACLAW MICUTA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, UNFDAC, GENEVA, CALLED ON ME AND I FOUND HIS VERSION OF THE SITUATION IN LAOS TOO SILLY TO REPORT, BUT WILL PASS IT ON IN RESPONSE TO VIENTIANE AND RANGOON'S COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

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2. ACCORDING TO MICUTA, THE PATHET LAO HAVE A SPLENDID PROGRAM

OF REHABILITATION FOR ADDICTS. THEY TAKE THEM TO A NICE ISLAND IN THE NAM NGUM RESERVOIR WHERE THEY AND THE LADIES FROM THE WHITE ROSE AND OTHER DIVES ARE NOW BEING PERSUADED TO ABANDON THEIR SORDID WAYS. MR. ARNAUD HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT THIS IDYLIC CENTER BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GO. INDEED THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PATHET LAO IN HIM IS SO GREAT THAT HE IS THE ONLY FOREIGNER WHO HAS RECEIVED THIS INVITATION. MICUTA SEEMED A LITTLE SHOCKED WHEN I AFFIRMED UNGRACIOUSLY THAT THIS WAS A CAMP FOR BRAINWASHING AND POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION AND THAT ARNAUD WOULD NEVER GET THERE.

4. MR. MICUTA ALSO EXPLAINED THAT ARNAUD HAS A WONDERFUL PROJECT TO BRING CATTLE INTO MUONG KASSY AND CONVERT THE MEO THERE INTO HERDSMEN RATHER THAN OPIUM GROWERS. THIS WILL HAVE ONLY A LIMITED EFFECT ON THE POPPY CROP AT FIRST, HE CONCEDED, BUT IT IS BOUND TO GROW AND BECOME MORE SIGNIFICANT. I ONLY SHUDDERED. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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